

FIRE HORROR GROWS IN "CITY OF WITCHES"

Nearly Half of Historic Town Is in Ruins—Water, Famine Now Is Threatened.

(Continued from First Page)

The edge of the old colonial residences, lying in ruins, in its wake, the birthplace of Nathaniel Hawthorne and other historic spots.

The fire has already surpassed the worst fire in the history of the city. It has burned for nearly 12 hours, and has destroyed more than 1,500 buildings, 1,500 families practically ruined, 500 injured, and property loss of \$4,000,000.

Famous Houses Gone.

The whole industrial section and the French residential section was wiped out. The fire spread from the old part of the city. There were many old colonial mansions, the finest examples of New England's great architectural era, and the fire spread to the French section, and the French section was destroyed.

The House of the Seven Gables, which is immortalized, was saved. The first spread of the fire was to the French section, and the French section was destroyed.

For several hours the fire in this district was confined to a small area, but it spread from the French section to the French section, and the French section was destroyed.

Orphan Asylum Destroyed.

The city orphan asylum, on Lafayette street, sheltering 150 persons, early was destroyed. All the children were taken by the nurse to a place of safety.

The Salem Hospital next was attacked. The patients were removed to safety. The hospital was born to Mrs. Roswell, an inmate.

Up Lafayette street the fire swept, making a clean path from the State Normal School north to Cedar and Everett streets. From this point the front of the fire moved like a huge sickle across Salem and Park streets to the water front.

There was no apparatus here to check the flames which licked up scores of tenements and high wooden apartment houses.

St. Joseph's Church, a huge new brick structure with lofty twin towers, and the adjoining school and convent buildings, were destroyed at a cost of \$2,000,000.

The fire made intense heat and many firemen were overcome. Many persons also received injuries while trying to escape. Twelve persons were killed, and many more were injured.

Panic in the Streets.

While the fire was at its height there was a semi-panic in the business and residential districts. Women ran about the streets calling for help. Some carried bedding and other household furniture in their arms. Many women collapsed on their doorsteps and in the street from excitement. Others tried to put out fires with buckets of water and pans of water. More than 100 automobiles were driven up to the edge of the fire zone, taking household articles and other valuables to places of safety.

How Salem Came to Be Known as "Witch City"

Salem is famous in early colonial history for its witchcraft. The delusion which led to the execution of twenty persons and the torture of fifty originated through the hysteria of the children of the Rev. Samuel Parris.

In the winter of 1691-2 his daughter Elizabeth aged nine, his niece, Abigail Williams, aged eleven, and several friends used to meet to practice tricks. A half-negro slave, Tituba, began to claim that the girls were in communication with the evil spirits. The girls were said to be screaming at some objects which they could see, although invisible to others.

Witchcraft was a very real thing to the people of the seventeenth century. Cotton Mather and his teachings encouraged the belief in it. Some one had to be blamed for the folly of the girls, and Parris beat Tituba until she admitted that she had bewitched the children.

John Indian, her husband, through fear, accused others, and the young people of Salem, notably Ann Putnam, spread the stories. At length a regular reign of terror prevailed in the village. Anyone who had a grudge against another could accuse him, and, strangely enough, some of those thus calumniated admitted that they really were possessed. A special court was formed to try those who had sold themselves to the devil, and it was unable to express doubt of anyone's guilt.

Parris got the Rev. George Burroughs, pastor of Salem, to help him. The Rev. Burroughs, a man of eighty, in connection with the case achieved the distinction of being the only man ever slain in America by the old punishment of peine forte et dure. Accused by Ann Putnam, he was determined to do all he could to save his property for his family. If he was brought to trial and convicted he would be crushed him. Then he was left to linger in agony and fed with only enough bread and water to keep him alive.

Tradition has it that the brave old man stood this torture with such courage that he taunted his persecutors and asked them to pile on heavier weights. He died in this way and four days later his wife also was tried for witchcraft and hanged.

Wilson Offers U. S. Aid To Fire-Stricken Salem

President Wilson today placed the resources of the Federal Government at the disposal of Governor Walsh, of Massachusetts, to care for the sufferers of the Salem disaster.

He sent Governor Walsh the following telegram:

"I am sure I speak for the American people in tendering hearty sympathy through you to the people of the stricken city of Salem. Can the Federal Government be of service in the emergency?"

"WOODROW WILSON."

Red Cross Director Offers Immediate Help

Ernest P. Bicknell, national director of the Red Cross, today wired offers of assistance to the authorities at Salem, Mass., and also to Governor Walsh. He also instructed Gardner M. Lane, national vice president of the Red Cross at Boston, to make arrangements for the Red Cross assistance at Salem.

He suggested that the Boston Association of Charities and Aid Societies, send experienced men to Salem to determine how the stricken city could be helped best.

Governor Walsh Raises \$77,000 for Victims

BOSTON, June 25.—The wave of sympathy for the stricken city of Salem today reached its height. The State today, when a meeting, hastily called by Governor Walsh, pledged \$77,000 in less than ten minutes, for the relief of the sufferers.

The leading citizens of the State fairly tumbled over each other in making contributions. Governor Walsh, in a short, ringing address, said that the State had already been pledged to the relief of the sufferers.

The Fox-Davison Company agreed to supply 1,000 loaves of bread daily as long as the need remained. John Alden Lee said the Bonnie Baird Hospital, at Cohasset, would care for thirty children and fifteen mothers, and the Boston and Maine and the Bay State railroads announced they would transport all supplies free.

INDEPENDENCE, Cal., June 25.—Silas Christofferson, aviator, in a biplane, flew over the peak of Mount Whitney, 14,950 feet high.

He attained an altitude estimated at more than 15,000 feet, and established it, is contended, a new American altitude record.

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